

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 5, 26, and 27 as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill apposition of an absent worker;

wherein said organizations comprise one or more of schools, school districts, retail banks, branch offices of banks, convenience stores, manufacturing facilities, fire departments, police departments, hospitals, transportation departments, airlines and temporary worker agencies;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to the data changes on the local database;

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at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the substitute workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to substitute workers via the telephone communication link or an Internet communication link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

2/5. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

B2 a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing floating workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central database in response to the data changes on the local database;

at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the floating workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to floating workers via the telephone communication link or an Internet communication link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

26. (Amended) A method for performing substitute fulfillment for a plurality of different organizations comprising:

receiving absentee information representing an absent worker via at least one communication link;

generating in response to receiving the absentee information a list of one or more potential substitute workers who can fill in for the absent worker using worker records having information associated with the absent worker and substitute records having information associated with at least one substitute worker;

contacting potential substitute workers listed on the generated list via at least one telephone link; and

interacting with the potential substitute worker using an interactive voice response system until one of the substitute workers agrees to fill in for the absent worker or until the generated list is exhausted.

27. (Amended) A method for performing substitute fulfillment for a plurality of organizations comprising:

receiving an absentee list from an organization via at least one communication link, said list comprising one or more absent workers;

generating in response to receiving the absentee list a list of one or more potential substitute workers who can fill in for each absent worker on the absentee list using worker records having information associated with the absent worker and substitute records having information associated with at least one substitute worker; and

contacting potential substitute workers listed on each of the generated lists until one of the substitute workers in each of the generated lists agrees to fill in for the absent worker or until the generated list is exhausted for each generated list until all of the generated lists are exhausted.

In the Claims:

Following, please find marked up versions of rewritten claims 1, 5, 26, and 27 showing all the changes relative to the previous versions of those claims:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and substitute worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill apposition of an absent worker;

wherein said organizations comprise one or more of schools, school districts, retail banks, branch offices of banks, convenience stores, manufacturing facilities, fire departments, police departments, hospitals, transportation departments, [schools, school districts,] airlines and temporary worker agencies;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records n on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central [databases] database in response to the data changes on the local database;

at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the substitute workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to substitute workers via the telephone communication link or an [internet] Internet communication link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

5. (Amended) A computer-implemented substitute fulfillment system that identifies and secures substitute workers for a plurality of different organizations, comprising:

a central server that processes information associated with a plurality of different organizations;

a central database coupled to the central server, the central database including records that store substitute fulfillment data associated with each of the plurality of different organizations, wherein for each of the different organizations the fulfillment data includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing substitute workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

a plurality of local processors that are remote from the central server, each of the local processors being associated with one of the different organizations and having a separate local database coupled thereto, wherein each local database is associated with one of the different organizations and includes worker records representing workers that may be absent from the organization and floating worker records representing floating workers that may be used to fill a position of an absent worker;

wherein the central database maintains each of the records on each local database in parallel with a corresponding record on the central database by periodically updating the records on the local databases in response to data changes on the central database, and wherein each local database maintains records on the central database in parallel with corresponding records on the local database by periodically updating the records on the central [databases] database in response to the data changes on the local database;

at least one telephone communication link coupled to the central server, wherein the telephone communication link provides information representing absent workers to the central server, the central server identifies one or more of the floating workers in response to the information representing absent workers, and the central server communicates information representing positions to be filled to floating workers via the telephone communication link or an [internet] Internet communication link; and

wherein the central server periodically transmits reports that include absentee and substitute information to each of the different organizations via the telephone communication link or the Internet communication link.

26. (Amended) A method for performing substitute fulfillment for a plurality of different organizations comprising:

receiving absentee information representing an absent worker via at least one communication link;

generating in response to receiving the absentee information a list of one or more potential substitute workers who can fill in for the absent worker using worker records having information associated with the absent worker and substitute records having information associated with at least one substitute worker; [and]

contacting potential substitute workers listed on the generated list via at least one telephone link; and

interacting with the potential substitute worker using an interactive voice response system until one of the substitute [worker] workers agrees to fill in for the absent worker or until the generated list is exhausted.

27. (Amended) A method for performing substitute fulfillment for a plurality of organizations comprising:

receiving an absentee list [of one or more absent workers] from an organization via at least one communication link, said list comprising one or more absent workers;

generating in response to receiving the absentee list a list of one or more potential substitute workers who can fill in for each absent worker on the absentee list using worker records having information associated with the absent worker and substitute records having information associated with at least one substitute worker; and

contacting potential substitute workers listed on each of the generated lists until one of the substitute [worker] workers in each of the generated lists agrees to fill in for the absent worker or until the generated list is exhausted for each generated list until all of the generated lists are exhausted.